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Preface - LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources

Patrick H. Martin

Louisiana State University Law Center, patrick.martin@law.lsu.edu

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Preface—LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources

The inaugural issue of the *LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources* marks an auspicious beginning for this brand new publication. Dr. Johnson's 1755 *Dictionary* says that to "inaugurate" is "to begin with good omens" for the word is derived from "augur"—to read omens. Of "auspicious" the *Oxford English Dictionary* gives this definition: "of good omen, betokening success, giving promise of a favourable issue."

The merits of the first issue can be judged by the product before you, and surely you will find favorably. The articles are all first-rate, drawing on a range of topics: an excellent disquisition on the origins of Louisiana mineral law; an informative treatment of national energy policy reflected in financing solar renewable energy projects; a discussion of the international topic of renewable energy subsidies in the World Trade Organization; and, finally, a thorough exploration of the environmental law of "legacy law suits" by one of the legislative leaders on the subject. Each of these articles is authored by a highly knowledgeable authority, and each demonstrates impeccable scholarship. The articles include but go beyond traditional law review fare, and the *Journal* plans a multi-disciplinary approach. From the initial offering, we can predict a great future for this ambitious journal. Despite the advertising disclaimers, past performance is an indication of future results.

Let us consider, however, the omens that preceded the publication of this issue. Though no sooth-sayer, I am pleased to have been able to observe the development of the new journal from inception to publication.

The founding of this new journal is entirely the result of the work of LSU Law students. It has been student-initiated, student-developed, and brought to fruition by LSU Law students. The conception of the *Journal* coincided with the establishment of the LSU Law Center Energy and Mineral Law Society. Both endeavors reflect the strong interest in energy and mineral law among LSU Law students and their dedication and commitment to making the law school a center of excellence in this field, both for the interests of the school and of the state.

The *Journal* was a year in planning and preparation by the students. What went into this first issue is unseen in the pages of the articles. It should be recounted. An enormous effort was put into the planning and design of the *Journal* before it was presented to a vote of approval by the faculty. To justify a commitment of Law Center resources and to persuade the faculty of a favorable reception to a new journal, the students laboriously gathered data and assembled a substantial packet of materials. They undertook

research on journals published by peer schools in the state and region. Loyola Law had four student-edited journals and Tulane Law, eight: why should LSU Law be self-limited to one? If the University of Houston Law could support six journals from 900 students, why couldn't LSU Law support two from a body of 600? The students canvassed all journals devoted to topics in energy, minerals, coastal issues, land use, environmental law, and oil and gas law and found the market was under-served, affording plenty of room for a new publication devoted to energy law and resources. Research into recent articles from continuing legal education programs and web-sites of energy-related organizations and law firms convinced them they had a rich base of talented authors and attorneys from which they could elicit articles. Most importantly, the students who spearheaded the journal went among their fellow law students to see what support they could draw from colleagues, especially those who might be serving on the *Journal* in the future. They received an overwhelmingly favorable reaction from a full survey they compiled.

More than 370 LSU law students responded to the survey. When asked: "Would you like to see a new student-edited journal at the Law Center?" 340 said "Yes." That's 91.6% positive. On the question: "Would you be interested in working on a new student-edited journal at the Law Center?," a total of 248 or 66.8% said they would. This is remarkable for unpaid work, especially from a group already burdened with busy schedules and onerous assignments. In individual, anonymous survey responses, the student comments were overwhelmingly positive:

1. "This is great and it's about time!! There need to be several journals associated with LSU. . . ."
2. "This is a great idea. We have so many talented, smart, dedicated students at [Paul M. Hebert Law Center], let's put them on display."
3. "I think a new student-edited journal would be a great addition to the Law Center. It would give more students who have an interest in legal writing a chance to show off and to hone their skills."
4. "I would love to see a new student-edited journal here. Many talented students don't make the *Louisiana Law Review* and never get another chance to participate in a student-edited academic journal. I think it would be a great addition to the Law Center."
5. "It's about time there were additional options for student involvement on a Journal at LSU. We are behind both

Loyola and Tulane in the amount of scholarly publications. This is a great opportunity for LSU!”

The polished, very professional presentation that the students compiled for consideration by the LSU Law Faculty assured that the student project was given enthusiastic approval and endorsement by the faculty.

Energy is of vital importance to the State of Louisiana and to our nation. Protecting the environment goes hand-in-hand with the development of energy resources, both within and beyond the borders of Louisiana. Without adequate supplies of energy, our economy cannot be sustained. In satisfying our energy needs and managing our resources wisely, the articles published in this *Journal* will guide our future. Publication of articles such as these in this inaugural issue will assist lawyers, the courts, and state officials in carrying out the prudent development of energy resources. The *LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources*—devoted to the pressing private and public law issues at state, national and international levels—shows the commitment of LSU Law students and the Law Center to a sound future. The students who have founded the *Journal* have conferred a lasting legacy upon the Law Center. Students who come after them will benefit enormously from this new journal, as will all who are committed to excellence in legal education at LSU.

With such industrious, dedicated and highly competent law students, I am confident that the field of energy and resources law is in good hands for the future, as is the LSU Law Center. I am very proud to be present at the birth of this new *Journal*. As Prospero assured other voyagers in Shakespeare’s *Tempest*, “I’ll . . . promise you calm Seas, auspicious gales.”

*Patrick H. Martin**

* Campanile Professor of Mineral Law, Emeritus, at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

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